



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/809,405	03/26/2004	Mu-Kai Chou	BHT/3111-445	7544
7590	10/14/2005		EXAMINER	
BRUCE H. TROXELL SUITE 1404 5205 LEESBURG PIKE FALLS CHURCH, VA 22041			LEE, CHRISTOPHER E	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2112	
			DATE MAILED: 10/14/2005	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/809,405	CHOU, MU-KAI
	Examiner Christopher E. Lee	Art Unit 2112

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 August 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
 - 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 March 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Substitute "IEEE 11394" in line 21 on page 3 by --IEEE 1394--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Drawings

2. Figure 1 should be designated by a legend such as --Prior Art-- because only that which is old is illustrated (See specification, page 1, paragraph [0004]). See MPEP § 608.02(g).

Corrected drawings in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

3. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference character(s) not mentioned in the description: The reference signs 1 and 11-16 are not used in the description part of the specification. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d), or amendment to the specification to add the reference character(s) in the description in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(b) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 1-5 are objected to because of the following informalities:

In the Claim 1, substitute "an body" in line 1 by --a body--.

In the Claim 1, delete "is" in line 6.

The Claim 1 recites the claim language "the improvement" in line 5. However, the claim never describes any conventional elements for the claim language "the improvement" in the preamble, which is required by the rule CFR §1.75(e). Thus, the Examiner presumes that the term "the improvement" could be considered as --an improvement-- in light of the specification since it is not clearly defined in the preamble of the claim.

The Claim 1 recites the subject matter "the power cord" in line 8. However, it has not been specifically clarified in the claim. Therefore, the Examiner presumes that the term "the power cord" could be considered as --a power cord-- in light of the specification since it is not defined in the claim.

The Claim 1 recites the subject matter "the connection cables" in lines 8-9. However, it has not been specifically clarified in the claim. Therefore, the Examiner presumes that the term "the connection cables" could be considered as --connection cables-- in light of the specification since it is not defined in the claim.

The Claims 2-5 recite the subject matter "the interface of the plug-in port" in lines 1-2, respectively. However, it has not been specifically clarified in the claim, and its intervening claims, respectively. Therefore, the Examiner presumes that the term "the interface of the plug-in port" could be considered as --an interface of the plug-in port-- in light of the specification since it is not defined in the claims, respectively.

Appropriate corrections are required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language.

In this case, the claim 1 recites "the improvement is that a power port, unlike in the prior art being arranged on the same side with the plug-in-ports, is arranged ..." in lines 5-7. Therefore, it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language "unlike in the prior art being arranged on the same side with the plug-in-ports." The claims 2-9 are dependent claims of the claim 1.

The Examiner presumes the claim limitations above recited as "the improvement is that a power port is arranged on a bump ..." in light of the specification for the purpose of claim rejection based on prior art.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

7. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

8. Claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Lin [US 2004/0201952 A1].

Referring to claim 1, Lin discloses a PC CardBus structure (i.e., PCMCIA card converter connector 20 in Fig. 1) arranged on a PC CardBus (i.e., PCMCIA card bus; See page 1, paragraph

[0002]), wherein a body of the PC CardBus (i.e., PC Card casing 21 of Fig. 1) has a connection port (i.e., PCMCIA connector interface 231 of Fig. 1) on one side thereof to connect to an electronic device (i.e., computer; See page 1, paragraph [0007]) and has an outer body on the other side (i.e., connector casing 22 of Fig. 1), the outer body (i.e., said connector casing) comprising :

- at least one plug-in port (i.e., sockets 24-26 in Fig. 1) for receiving at least one peripheral (e.g., interfacing USB and IEEE 1394; See page 2, paragraph [0025]), wherein an improvement is that a power port (i.e., power supply socket 27 of Fig. 1) is arranged on a bump at the outer body of the PC CardBus (i.e., a bump at said connector casing of said PCMCIA card bus) so that a power cord (i.e., direct current power cable; See page 2, paragraph [0026]) will not interfere with connection cables of other peripherals (i.e., connection cables for interfacing said USB and IEEE 1394 peripherals) when plugging in (in fact, said connection cables should not be interfered with said direct current power cable in light of the locations of the sockets in Fig. 1).

Referring to claim 2, Lin teaches

- an interface of the plug-in port (i.e., Socket 25 of Fig. 1) is an IEEE 1394 interface (See page 2, paragraph [0025]).

Referring to claim 3, Lin teaches

- an interface of the plug-in port (i.e., Sockets 23 and 24 in Fig. 1) is a USB interface (See page 2, paragraph [0025]).

Referring to claim 6, Lin teaches

- the bump of the outer body (i.e., a bump at connector casing 22 in Fig. 1) has an extending trench (i.e., terminal guiding hole on upper connector casing 221 of Fig. 2) capable of providing

guidance of the power cord terminal (i.e., direct current power terminal; See page 2, paragraph [0026]) while plugging in (actually, said direct current power terminal is guided through said terminal guiding hole toward power supply socket 27 of Fig. 2 while plugging in).

Referring to claims 7 and 9, Lin teaches

- the electronic device (i.e., computer; See page 1, paragraph [0007]) is a notebook computer, which is a PC (See page 2, paragraph [0019]).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin [US 2004/0201952 A1] as applied to claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9 above, and further in view of Laity [US 6,488,542 B2].

Referring to claim 4, Lin discloses all the limitations of the claim 4, except that does not teach an interface of the plug-in port is a LAN interface.

Laity discloses a type III PCMCIA card with integrated receptacles for receiving standard communication plugs (See Fig. 1 and Abstract), wherein

- an interface (i.e., Ethernet LAN interface) of a plug-in port (i.e., receptacle 86 of Fig. 1) is a LAN interface (See col. 5, lines 15-18 and col. 6, lines 19-20).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said interface with said plug-in port (i.e., said Ethernet LAN interface with said receptacle), as disclosed by Laity, in said PC CardBus structure (i.e., said PCMCIA card converter

connector), as disclosed by Lin, for the advantage of providing a RJ-type receptacle for directly connecting said PC CardBus structure (i.e., card) to a LAN network (See Laity, col. 2, lines 14-32).

11. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lin [US 2004/0201952 A1] as applied to claims 1-3, 6, 7 and 9 above, and further in view of Fang et al. [US 2005/0168925 A1; hereinafter Fang].

Referring to claim 8, Lin discloses all the limitations of the claim 8, except that does not teach the electronic device is a tablet PC.

Fang discloses a separable and foldable tablet PC assembly (See Abstract), wherein

- an electronic device (i.e., Tablet PC assembly 1 in Fig. 2) is a tablet PC (i.e., Table PC 4 of Fig. 2).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have substituted said electronic device (i.e., said notebook computer), as disclosed by Lin, by said electronic device (i.e., said Tablet PC assembly), as disclosed by Fang, for the advantage of providing a slate-like tablet PC with a separate data-inputting device, in which said slate-like tablet PC is handy and portable when used independently, and is foldable with the data-inputting device as is a convertible PC (See Fang, page 1, paragraph [0009]).

Allowable Subject Matter

12. Claim 5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, and further rewritten or amended to overcome the claim objection under minor informality, set forth in this Office action, and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

13. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

With respect to claim 5, the claim limitations are deemed allowable over the prior art of record as the prior art fails to teach or suggest that a PC CardBus structure arranged on a PC CardBus having an interface of the serial ATA plug-in port.

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hsiao [US 2005/0051626 A1] discloses 7-in-1 card reader for PCMCIA interface.

Morrow [US 6,941,405 B2] discloses system and method capable of offloading converter/controller-specific tasks to a system microprocessor.

Chou et al. [US 2005/0182881 A1] disclose extended-secure-digital interface using a second protocol for faster transfers.

Chen [US 5,596,562 A] discloses controlling method and apparatus for supporting hard disk and/or CD-ROM drives through the PCMCIA interface.

Drescher et al. [US 6,922,738 B2] disclose ATA/SATA combined controller.

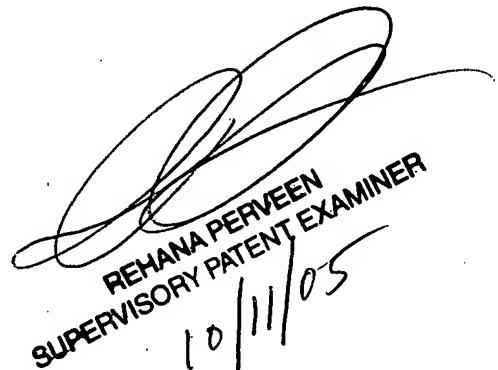
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Lee whose telephone number is 571-272-3637. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30am - 5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rehana Perveen can be reached on 571-272-3676. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Christopher E. Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2112

CEL/ 



REHANA PERVEEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
10/11/05